Chapter 04

YES.
THAT IS CERTAINLY AN UNUSUAL REQUEST...
IF I ONLY KNEW WHO HAD DROPPED IT, I COULD ASK THEM ABOUT IT.
But I couldn't find them
SOMEONE DROPPED A DRAWING?
GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE GHOST IS NOT GOING WELL...!!
とある科学の超電磁砲 外伝
アストラル*バディ
Astral*Buddy
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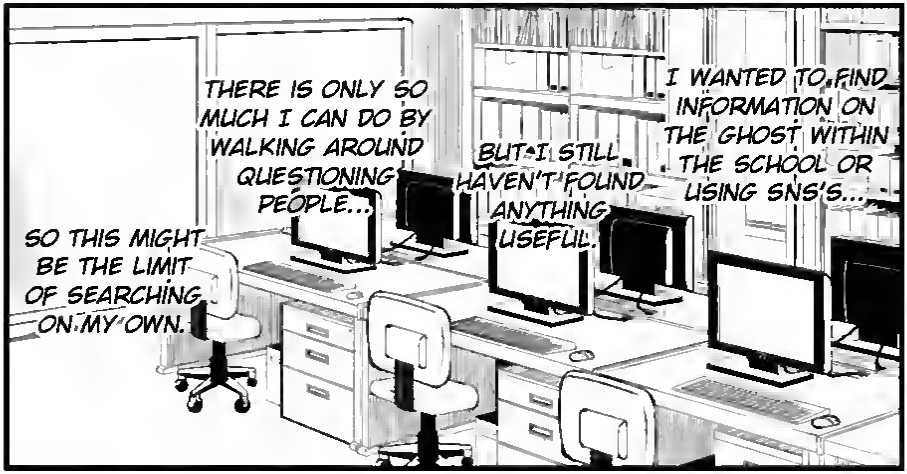
THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH I CAN DO BY WALKING AROUND QUESTIONING PEOPLE...
BUT I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING USEFUL.
I WANTED TO FIND INFORMATION ON THE GHOST WITHIN THE SCHOOL OR USING SNS'S...
SO THIS MIGHT BE THE LIMIT OF SEARCHING ON MY OWN.

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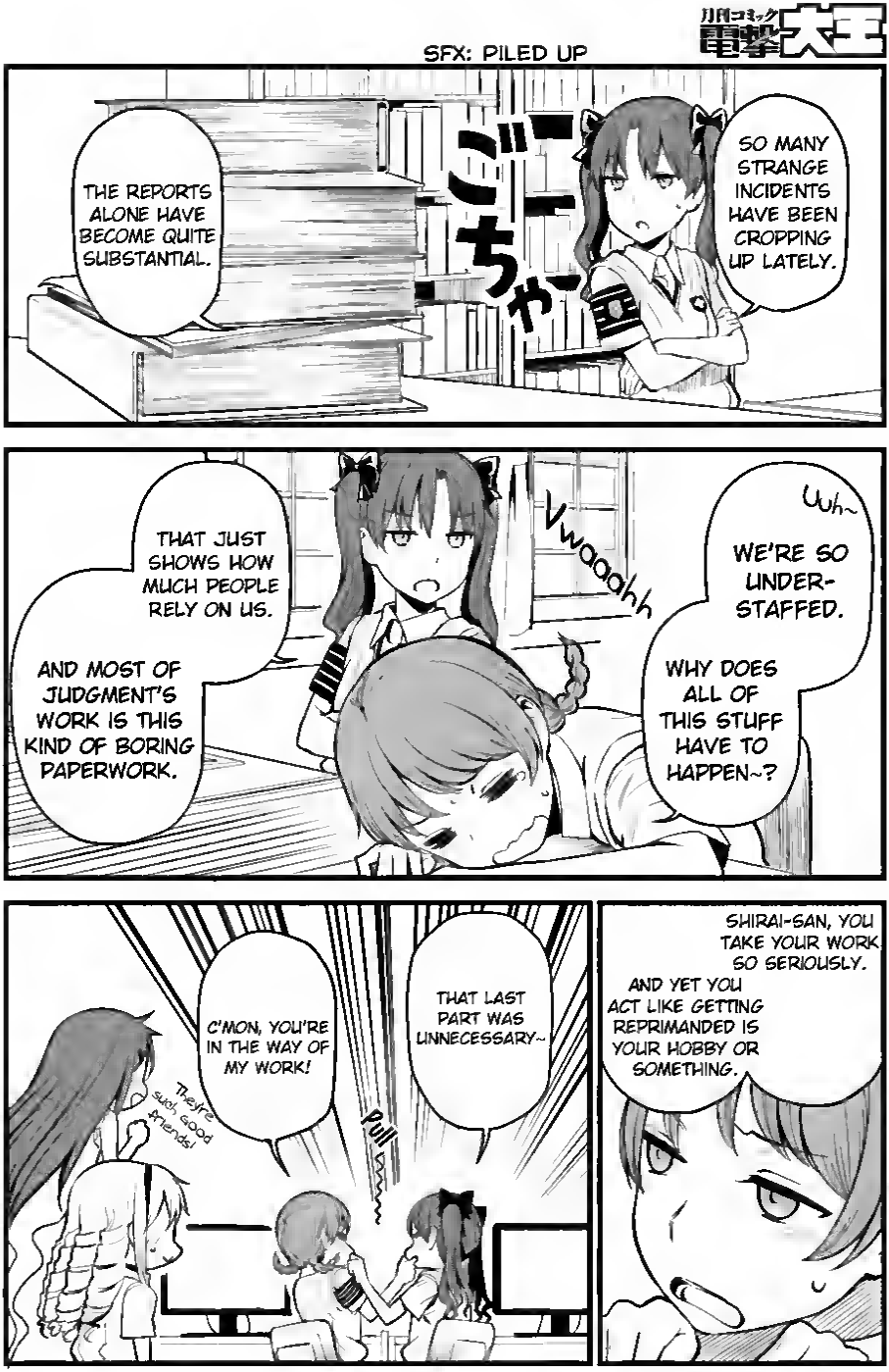
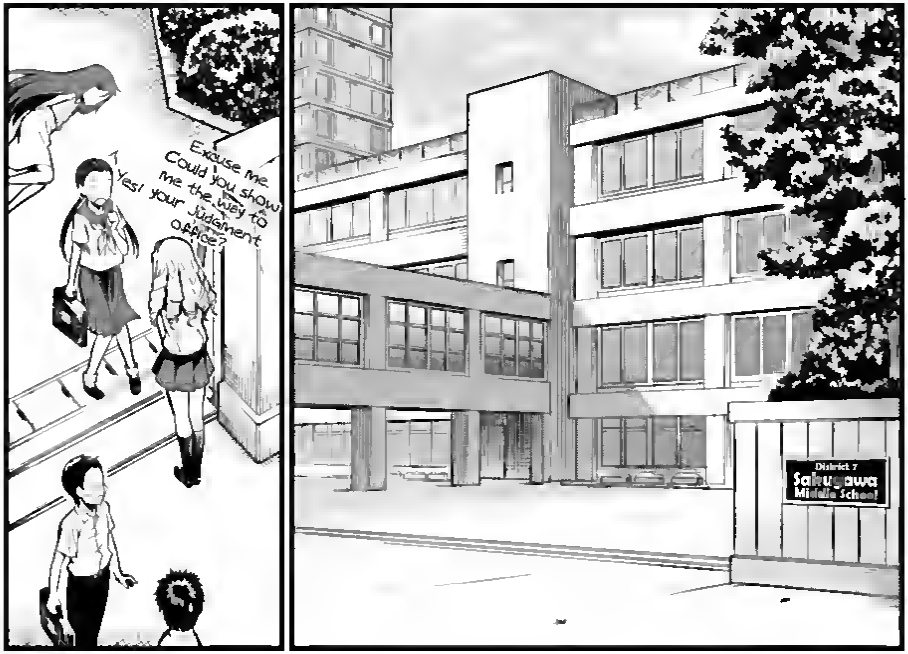
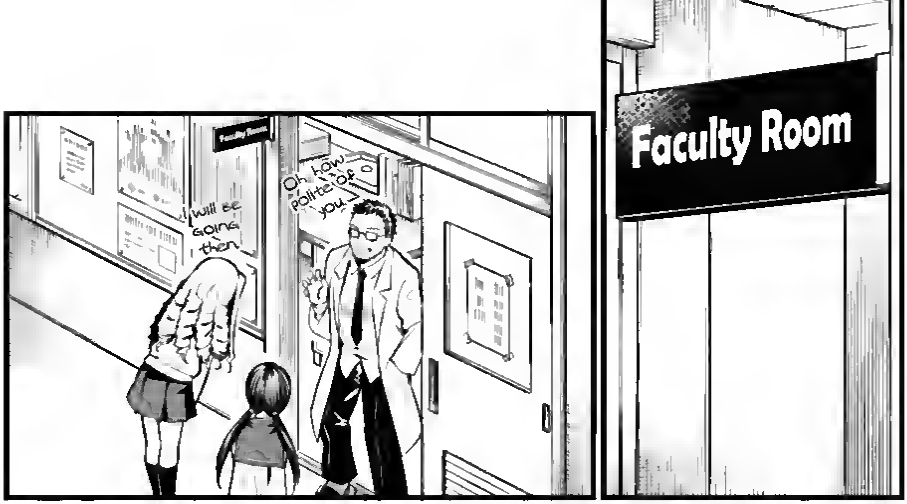

SFX: PILED UP
ごちゃ
SO MANY STRANGE INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN CROPPING UP LATELY.
THE REPORTS ALONE HAVE BECOME QUITE SUBSTANTIAL.
Uuh~
WE'RE SO UNDER-STAFFED.
Vwoooh
WHY DOES ALL OF THIS STUFF HAVE TO HAPPEN~?
THAT JUST SHOWS HOW MUCH PEOPLE RELY ON US.
AND MOST OF JUDGMENT'S WORK IS THIS KIND OF BORING PAPERWORK.
SHIRAI-SAN, YOU TAKE YOUR WORK SO SERIOUSLY.
AND YET YOU ACT LIKE GETTING REPRIMANDED IS YOUR HOBBY OR SOMETHING.
THAT LAST PART WAS UNNECESSARY~
C'MON, YOU'RE IN THE WAY OF MY WORK!
Pull
They're such good friends!

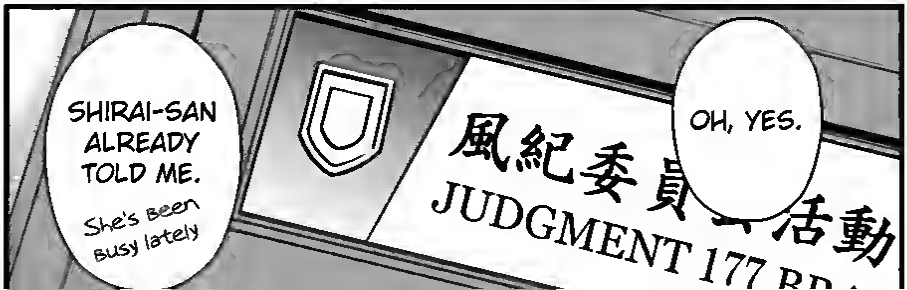
KOMAKI.
YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS.
Experience is always good.
I'll do it!
UNDER-STOOD~! LEAVE IT TO ME~!
Toss
Throb Throb
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ANYWAY, UNDER-STOOD.
WE'LL CONTACT YOU IF WE FIND THE OWNER.
Throb Throb
BY THE WAY, I APOLOGIZE FOR INTERRUPTING WHEN YOU'RE BUSY...
BUT DO YOU KNOW ANYONE GOOD AT INVESTIGATING THINGS?
INVESTIGATING THINGS?
WHAT KIND OF THINGS?
SFX: FLOAT
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE BUT HAVING TROUBLE.
I WOULD LOVE SOME HELP FROM SOMEONE SKILLED AT GATHERING INFORMATION.
Float
LET'S SEE.
Hmm...
I CAN THINK OF ONE PERSON.
REALLY!?

WHEN IT COMES TO INVESTIGATIONS AND GATHERING INFORMATION...
IF THAT GIRL CAN'T DO IT, THEN NO ONE IN ACADEMY CITY CAN.
YES.
SHE'S THE VERY BEST THAT I'M AWARE OF.

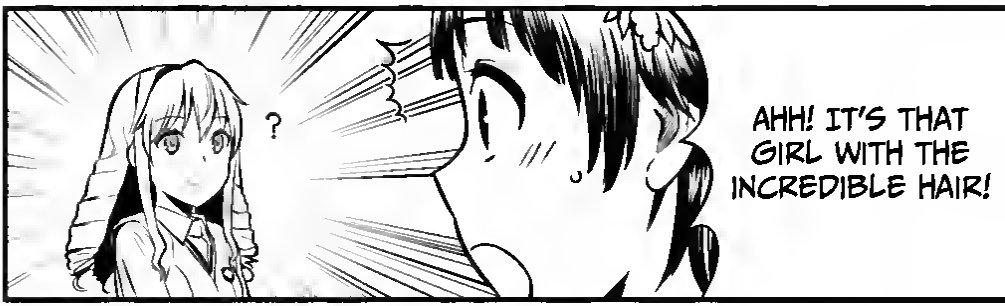

Excuse me. Could you show me the way to the Judgment office?
Yes! your Judgment office?
District 7
Middle School

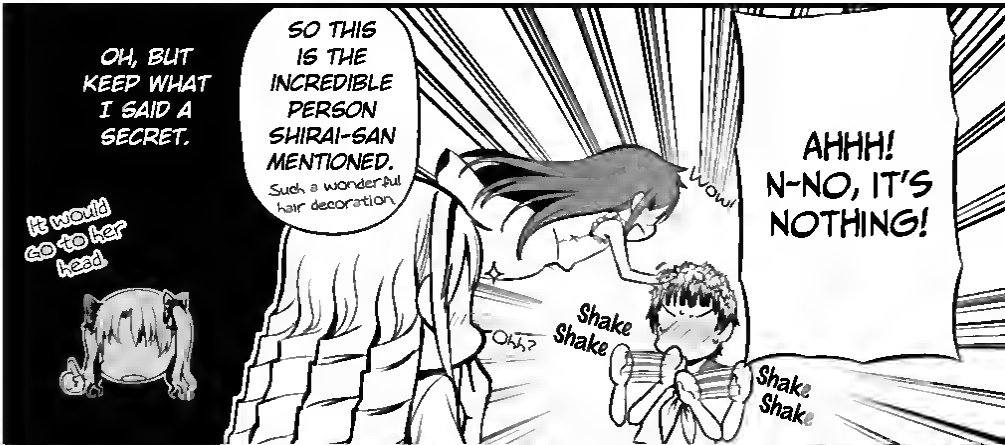

Faculty Room
I will be going then.
Oh, how polite of you.

Yes, it's a coed school is new to me.
Fidget
Fidget
Tokiwadai is a girls school, isn't it?


SHIRAI-SAN ALREADY TOLD ME.
She's been busy lately
OH, YES.
風紀委員
JUDGMENT 177

I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ANY HELP, BUT...


?
AHH! IT'S THAT GIRL WITH THE INCREDIBLE HAIR!

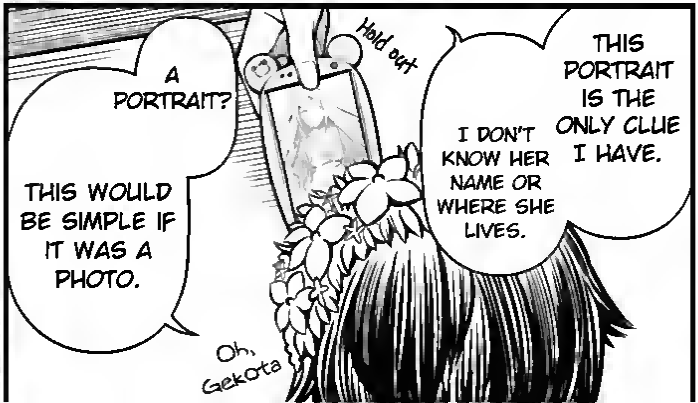

OH, BUT KEEP WHAT I SAID A SECRET.
It would go to her head.
SO THIS IS THE INCREDIBLE PERSON SHIRAI-SAN MENTIONED.
Such a wonderful hair decoration.
Oh?
Shake Shake
Wow!
AHHH! N-NO, IT'S NOTHING!
Shake Shake

I AM HOKAZE JUNKO.
THANK YOU FOR OFFERING YOUR ASSISTANCE.
AHEM.
LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN. I AM UIHARU KAZARI.

OH, YES!
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
YES.

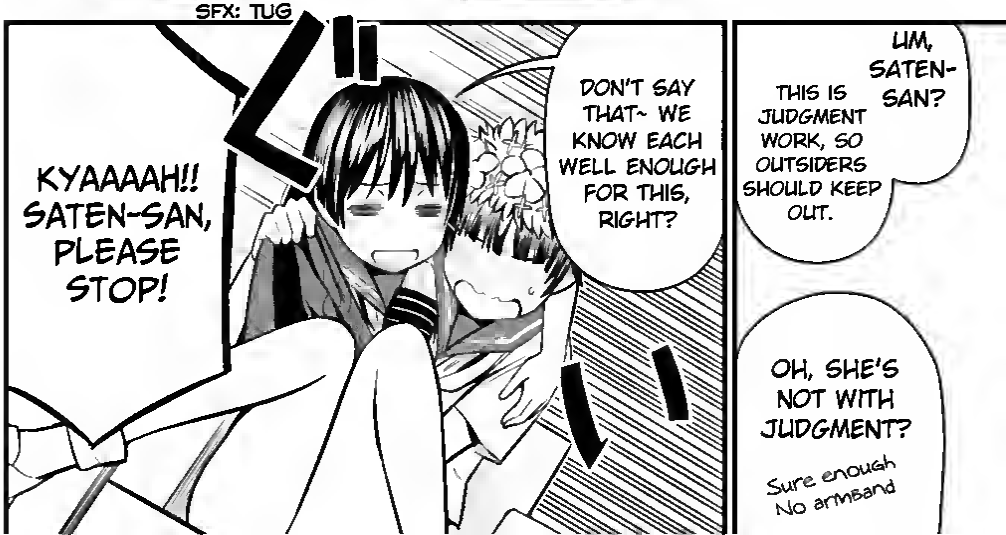
THEY'RE BOTH FROM TOKIWADAI, BUT HER AURA IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM A PERVERT LIKE SHIRAI-SAN!
WOW! WOW! SHE'S A TRUE HIGH-CLASS GIRL!
Sparkle
Sparkle
Sparkle
I ASSUME SHIRAI-SAN ALREADY TOLD YOU...

Glance
BUT WITH A DRAWING ...
Nowww www...

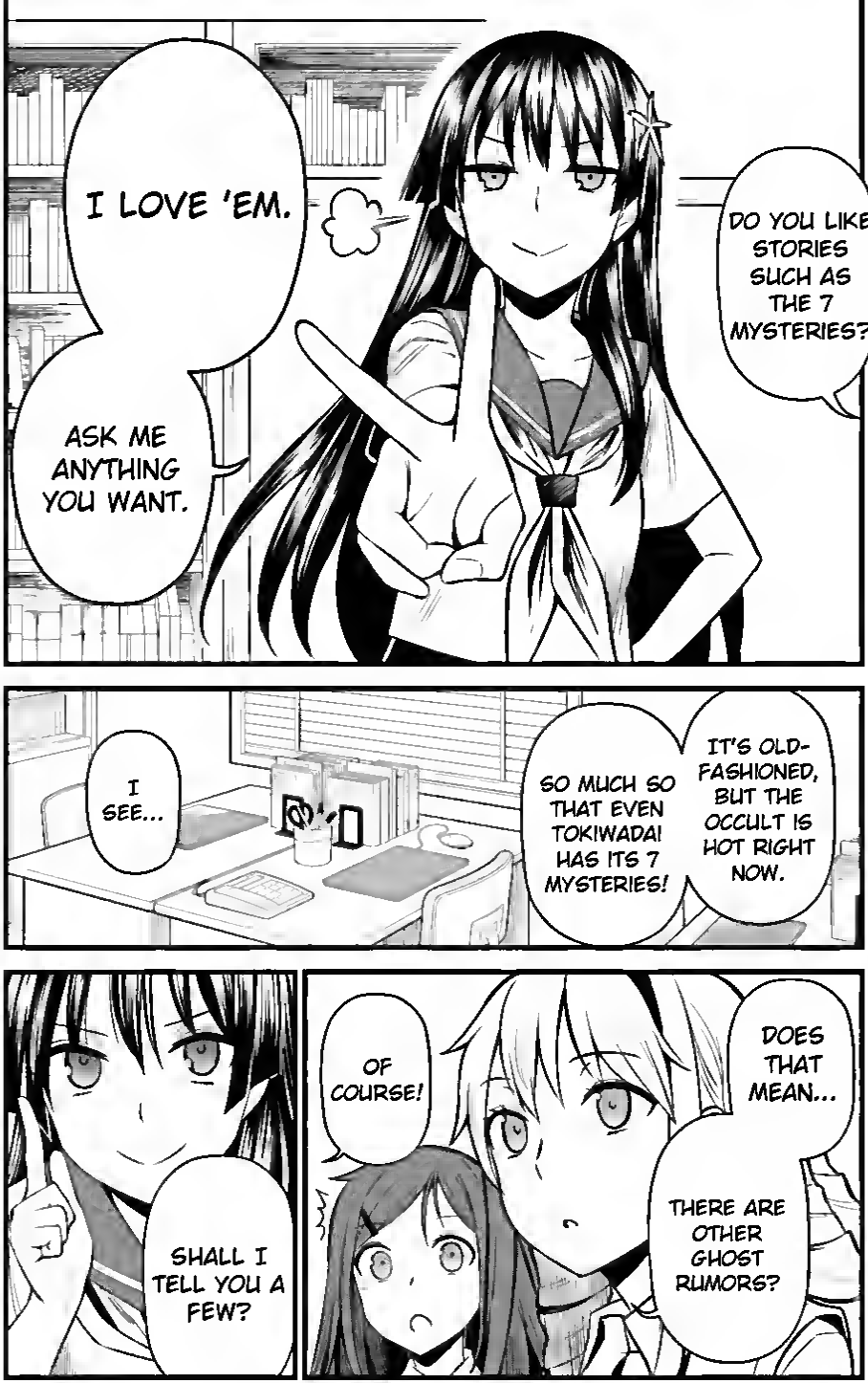

A PORTRAIT?
THIS WOULD BE SIMPLE IF IT WAS A PHOTO.
Hold out
THIS PORTRAIT IS THE ONLY CLUE I HAVE.
I DON'T KNOW HER NAME OR WHERE SHE LIVES.
Oh, Gekota

Sparkle
Sparkle
Sparkle
Sparkle
Sparkle
Wowww
ww...
SATEN-SAN...?

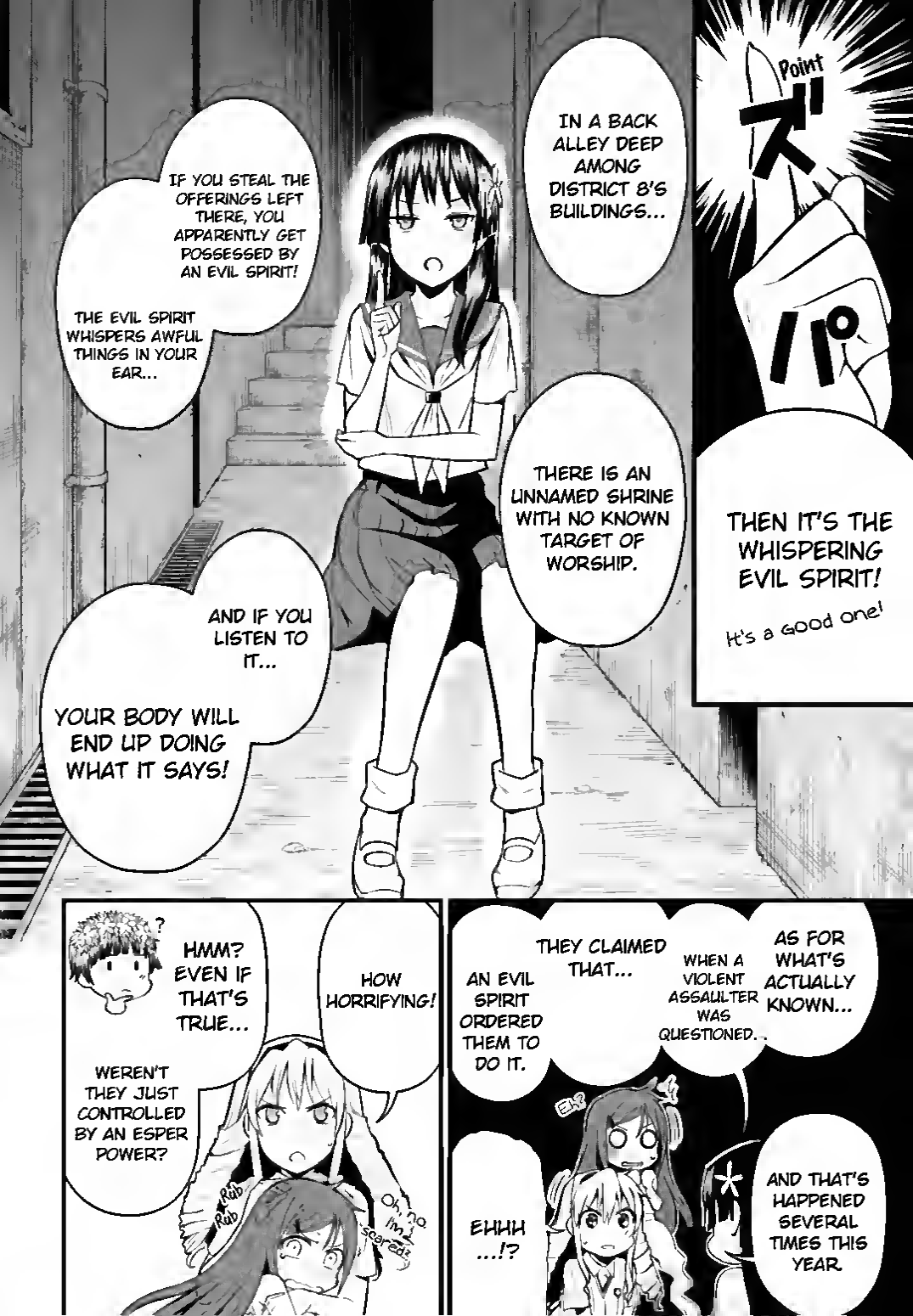
UM... MY NAME IS SATEN RUIKO!!
I'M SO GLAD I COULD MEET SOMEONE WHO SO PERFECTLY MATCHES MY MENTAL IMAGE!
Of Tokiwadai
Grab
I-I'M HONORED...

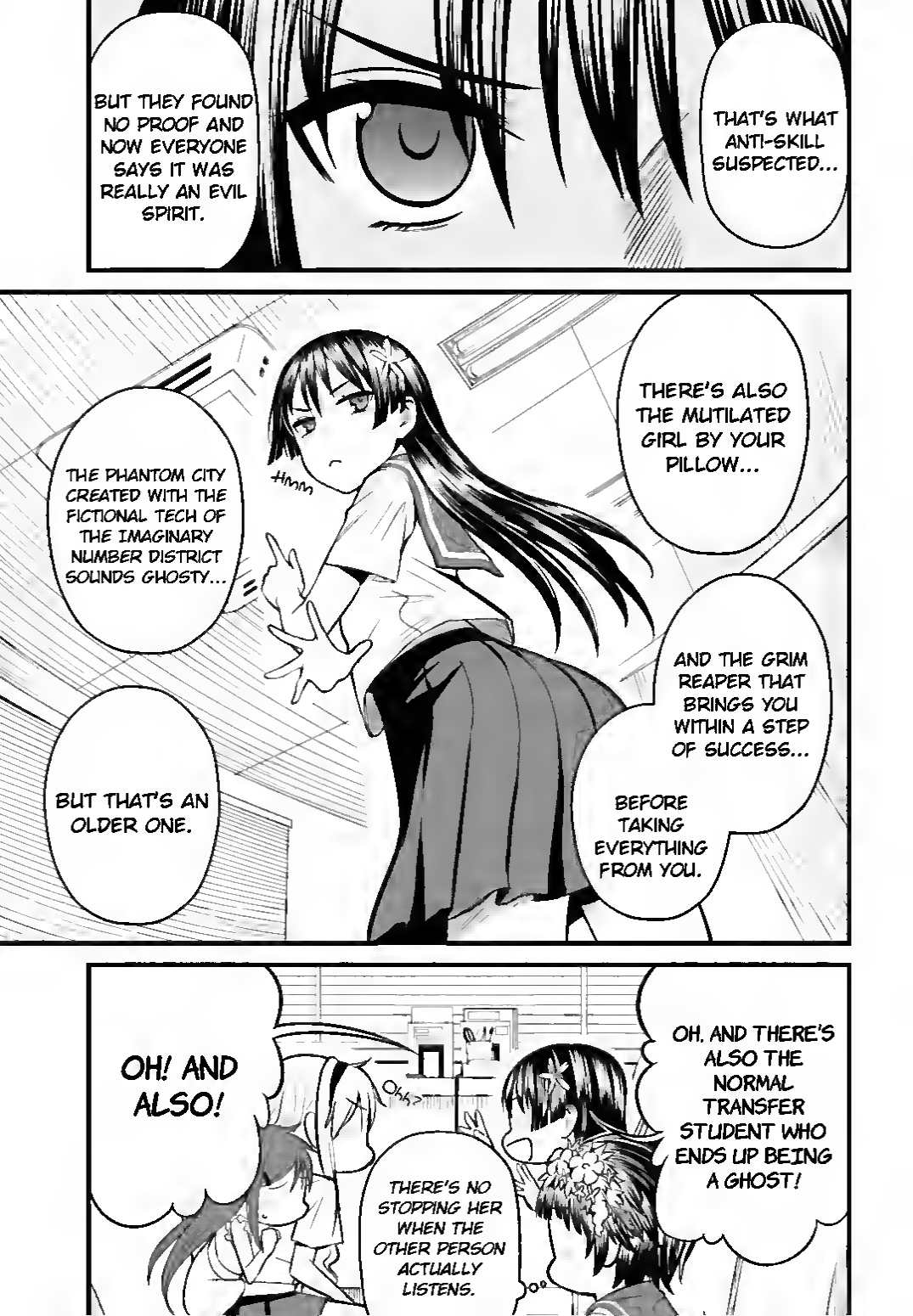

SFX: TUG
KYAAAAH!! SATEN-SAN, PLEASE STOP!
DON'T SAY THAT~ WE KNOW EACH WELL ENOUGH FOR THIS, RIGHT?
UM, SATEN-SAN?
THIS IS JUDGMENT WORK, SO OUTSIDERS SHOULD KEEP OUT.
OH, SHE'S NOT WITH JUDGMENT?
Sure enough No armband

Y-YES.
I DON'T MIND.
CAN I ASK WHY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THIS GIRL?
AH. C'MON, SATEN-SAN!
ARE YOU TWO FAMILIAR WITH THE 7 MYSTERIES OF TOKIWADAI?
YES, YES, YES!
THAT'S THE ONE WITH THE RUMORS OF A GHOST APPEARING RECENTLY. RIGHT!?
YOU COULD SAY THE PERSON I'M LOOKING FOR IS CONNECTED TO THOSE RUMORS.
OHH~
Me, me
I KNEW IT! WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THAT!
RIGHT. UIHARU!? I WAS SAYING I WANTED TO MEET A TOKIWADAI GIRL!
I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THIS IS GOING NOW!
You were the only one talking about it.
WHERE THIS IS GOING?

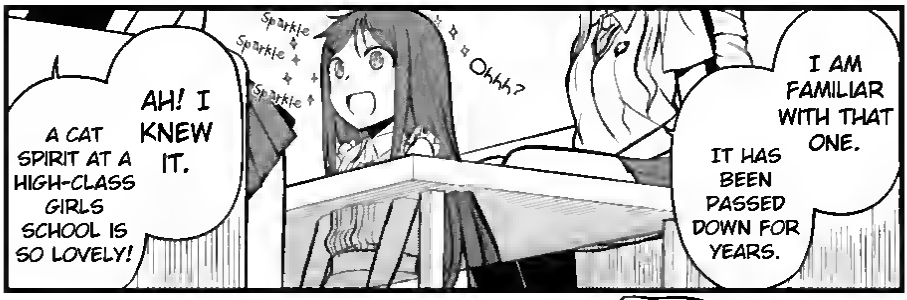

DO YOU LIKE STORIES SUCH AS THE 7 MYSTERIES?
I LOVE 'EM.
ASK ME ANYTHING YOU WANT.
IT'S OLD-FASHIONED, BUT THE OCCULT IS HOT RIGHT NOW.
SO MUCH SO THAT EVEN TOKIWADAI HAS ITS 7 MYSTERIES!
I SEE...
DOES THAT MEAN...
OF COURSE!
THERE ARE OTHER GHOST RUMORS?
SHALL I TELL YOU A FEW?

I WAS HOPING TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE SUBJECT...
SO PLEASE DO.
YOU GOT IT!
UM... I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST THIS.
It might drag on...
?
Roll Roll
I can't wait!
THEY MIGHT BE FRIENDS OF MINE!
THAT IS A POSSIBILITY.
SFX: SHOVE
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY! LET'S GET TO IT!
Woh
LET'S SEE... THERE ARE STORIES OF A GHOST HIJACKING SOMEONE'S BODY...
BUT THAT MIGHT BE TOO ORTHODOX.
OH, THAT'S THE KIND OF STORY I WANT!


Point
IN A BACK ALLEY DEEP AMONG DISTRICT 8'S BUILDINGS...
IF YOU STEAL THE OFFERINGS LEFT THERE, YOU APPARENTLY GET POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT!
THE EVIL SPIRIT WHISPERS AWFUL THINGS IN YOUR EAR...
THERE IS AN UNNAMED SHRINE WITH NO KNOWN TARGET OF WORSHIP.
THEN IT'S THE WHISPERING EVIL SPIRIT!
It's a good one!
AND IF YOU LISTEN TO IT...
YOUR BODY WILL END UP DOING WHAT IT SAYS!
HOW HORRIFYING!
HMM? EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE...
WEREN'T THEY JUST CONTROLLED BY AN ESPER POWER?
Rub Rub
Oh no I'm scared!
AS FOR WHAT'S ACTUALLY KNOWN...
WHEN A VIOLENT ASSAULTER WAS QUESTIONED...
THEY CLAIMED THAT...
AN EVIL SPIRIT ORDERED THEM TO DO IT.
EH?
EHHH...!?
AND THAT'S HAPPENED SEVERAL TIMES THIS YEAR.


THAT'S WHAT ANTI-SKILL SUSPECTED...
BUT THEY FOUND NO PROOF AND NOW EVERYONE SAYS IT WAS REALLY AN EVIL SPIRIT.
THERE'S ALSO THE MUTILATED GIRL BY YOUR PILLOW...
Hmm
THE PHANTOM CITY CREATED WITH THE FICTIONAL TECH OF THE IMAGINARY NUMBER DISTRICT SOUNDS GHOSTY...
AND THE GRIM REAPER THAT BRINGS YOU WITHIN A STEP OF SUCCESS...
BUT THAT'S AN OLDER ONE.
BEFORE TAKING EVERYTHING FROM YOU.
OH! AND ALSO!
Oh?
THERE'S NO STOPPING HER WHEN THE OTHER PERSON ACTUALLY LISTENS.
OH, AND THERE'S ALSO THE NORMAL TRANSFER STUDENT WHO ENDS UP BEING A GHOST!

THERE'S A TREE AT TOKIWADAI WHERE A SHOE-WEARING CAT LIVES.
THE CAT APPARENTLY STILL LIVES IN THE TREE AS A SPIRIT...
AND TELEPATHS CAN SUPPOSEDLY SPEAK WITH THE TREE IF THEY CALL OUT TO IT!
AH... BUT YOU MIGHT KNOW THIS ONE.
IT'S A TOKIWADAI STORY.


Sparkle
Sparkle
Sparkle
Ohhh?
I AM FAMILIAR WITH THAT ONE.
IT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FOR YEARS.
AH! I KNEW IT.
A CAT SPIRIT AT A HIGH-CLASS GIRLS SCHOOL IS SO LOVELY!

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS MORE TO THAT STORY?
THE LEGENDARY TREE IS THE BLESSING TREE...
SO IF YOU TIE AN ANONYMOUS LOVE LETTER TO ITS BRANCH...
EH!? NO, I DIDN'T!
THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE BLESSED BY THE SPIRIT AND BOUND TOGETHER FOREVER.

RIGHT? ...HUH? SATEN-SAN?
WOW~ THAT IS LOVELY.
IT'S SO ROMANTIC.
SOME COUPLES WERE APPARENTLY REALLY BROUGHT TOGETHER LIKE THAT.
SO IF YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF LEGEND, WOULDN'T IT MEAN...?
!!?
SO IT'S... UM... ONLY FOR GIRLS, RIGHT?
AND AREN'T THE TEACHERS ALL WOMEN, TOO?
UM...
TOKIWADAI IS A SUPER HIGH-CLASS GIRLS SCHOOL, ISN'T IT?
WITH THE QUEEN!? IT CAN'T BE!
Ahhhhhh
GENDER MEANS NOTHING WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE.

Hug
UIHARU, YOU'RE SO PURE! Never change.
EH? EH?
?
EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THIS AGAIN.
NOT...

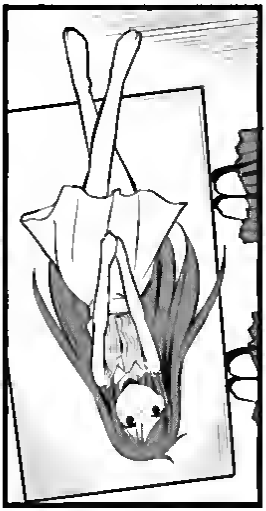
HOW COULD I SAY THAT?
IT'S KIND OF MY OWN FAULT FOR NOT NOTICING.

I THOUGHT FALLING IN LOVE WITH AND MARRYING A GENTLEMAN...
WAS JUST WHAT YOU DID WHEN YOU GREW UP.
IS THAT KIND OF THING...
MORE NORMAL THAN I IMAGINED?
THIS IS... TROUBLING...
Sigh
Sigh...
IT'S KIND OF EROTIC...
SHE EVEN GETS EMBARRASSED LIKE A HIGH-CLASS GIRL.

AH HA HA HA.
WERE YOU JUST TRYING TO SHOW OFF?
SOME OF THOSE BARELY HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH GHOSTS.

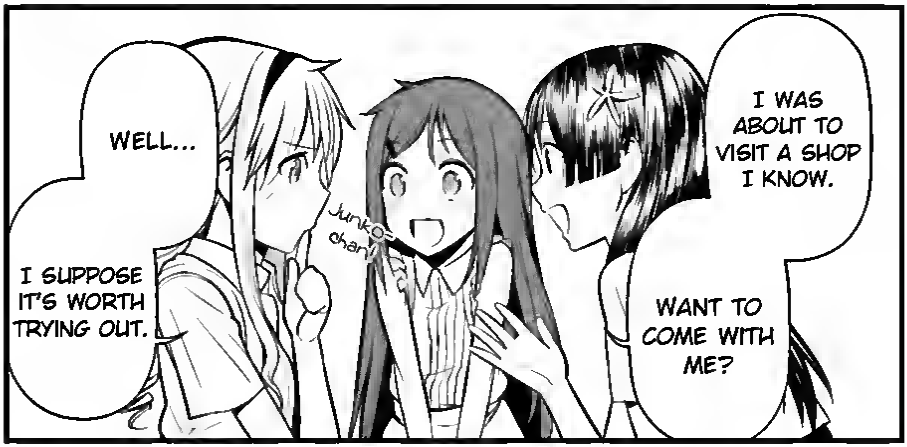
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

YES, I DO.
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT INDIAN POKER?
U-UM, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN URBAN LEGENDS...

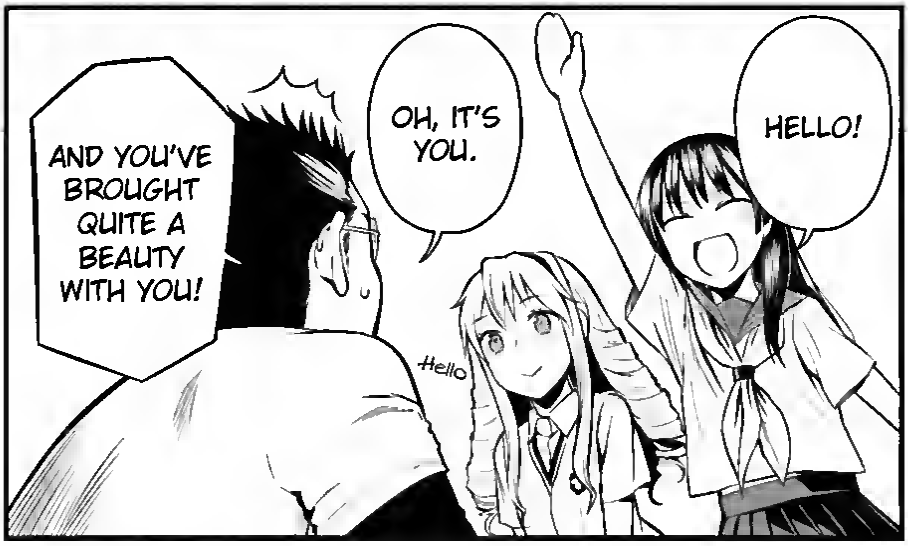


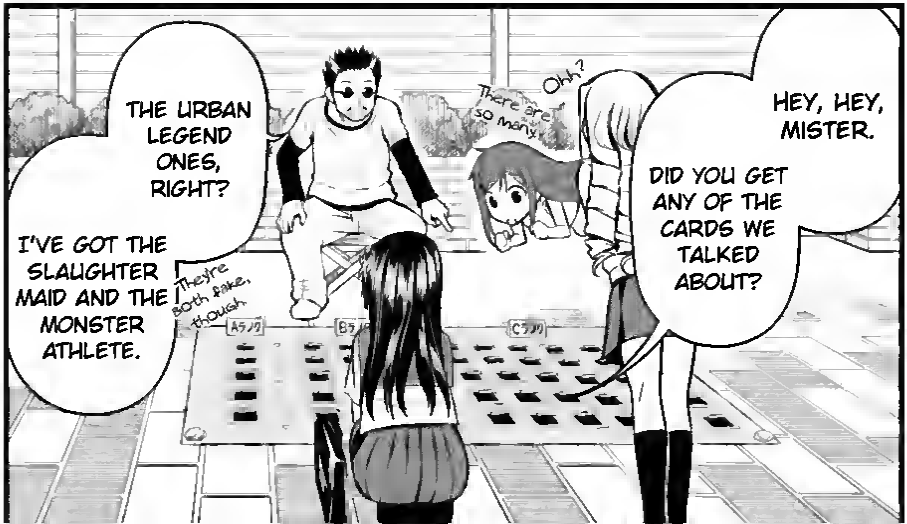
USING SOME OF THOSE CARDS.
YOU CAN EXPERIENCE ACADEMY CITY'S URBAN LEGENDS...
IT SEEMS...

Oh?
REALLY?
THAT IS VERY INTERESTING.
RIGHT!? I WAS THINKING OF TRYING SOME OUT MYSELF.

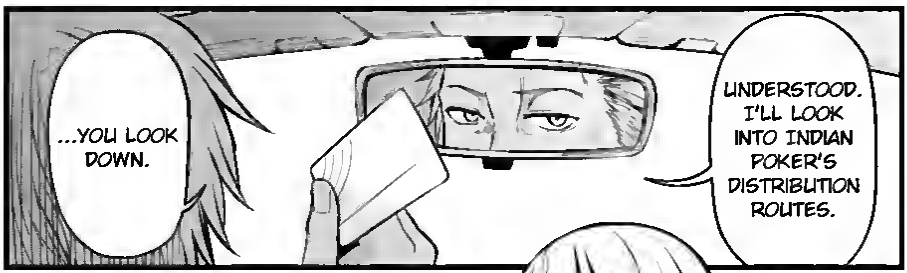

I WAS ABOUT TO VISIT A SHOP I KNOW.
WANT TO COME WITH ME?
Junko-chan
WELL...
I SUPPOSE IT'S WORTH TRYING OUT.

YES! A DATE WITH A HIGH-CLASS GIRL!!
?
I'LL INVESTIGATE THE IMAGE YOU SHOWED ME.
I'LL CONTACT YOU IF I FIND ANYTHING.

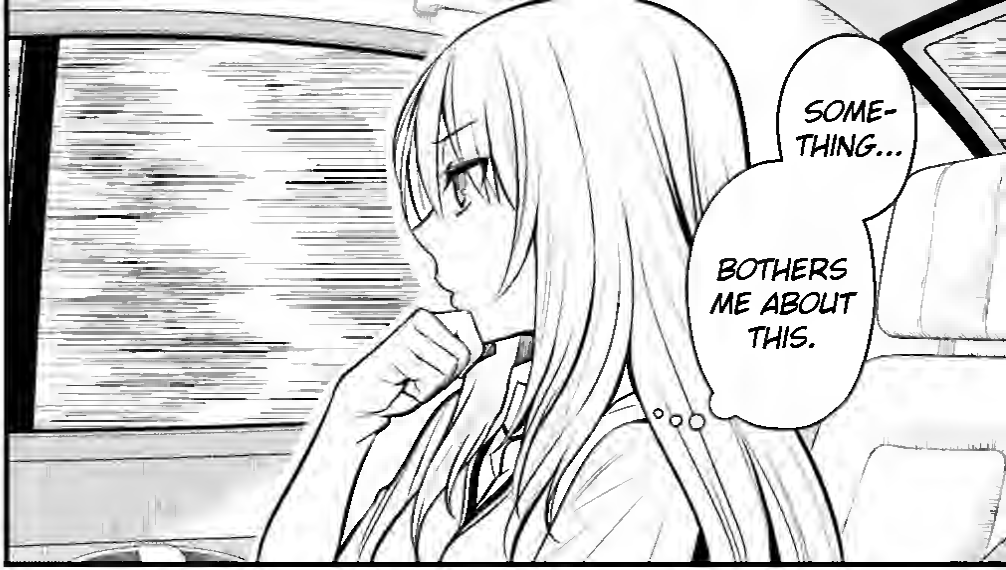

HELLO!
OH, IT'S YOU.
AND YOU'VE BROUGHT QUITE A BEAUTY WITH YOU!
Hello

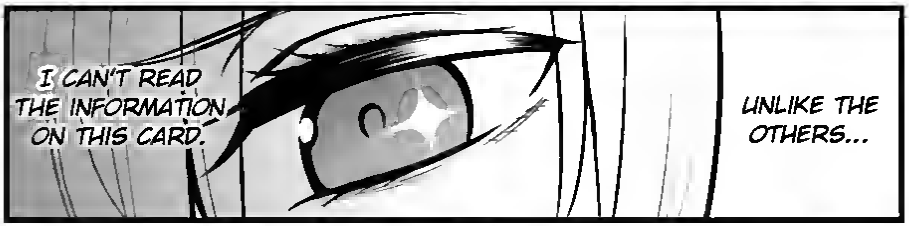

HEY, HEY, MISTER.
DID YOU GET ANY OF THE CARDS WE TALKED ABOUT?
Ohh?
There are so many!
THE URBAN LEGEND ONES, RIGHT?
I'VE GOT THE SLAUGHTER MAID AND THE MONSTER ATHLETE.
They're both fake, though.

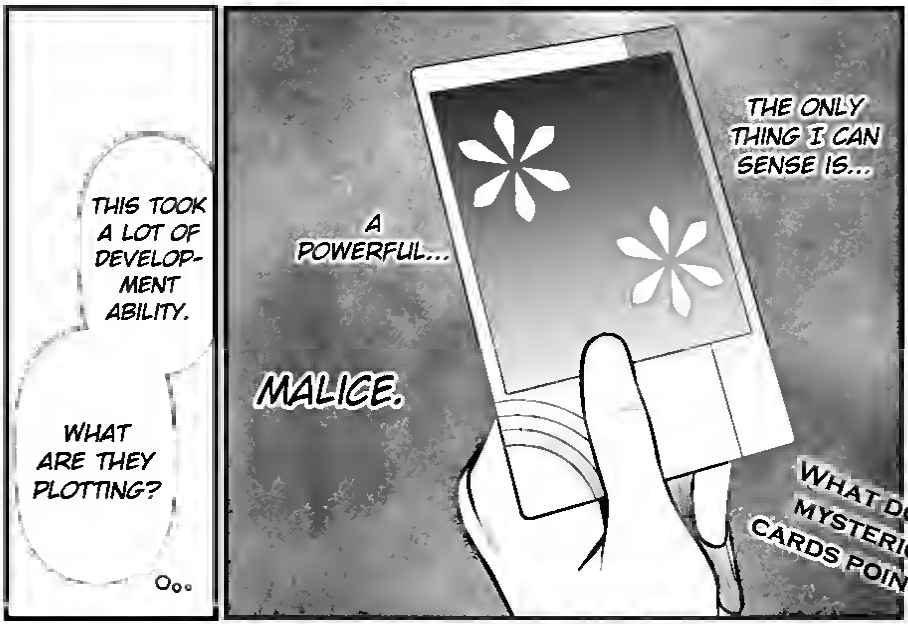
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HOKAZE-SAN?
GOOD QUESTION...


UNDERSTOOD. I'LL LOOK INTO INDIAN POKER'S DISTRIBUTION ROUTES.
...YOU LOOK DOWN.

NOT REALLY.
THERE WAS THIS MONKEY WITH AN AWFUL THIEVING ABILITY...
AND IT WAS SCARY. ☆
THAT'S ALL IT WAS.
FROM YOUR TONE...
I TAKE IT YOU KNOW WHO DID IT.
I DO, BUT...






THIS TOOK A LOT OF DEVELOP-MENT ABILITY.
WHAT ARE THEY PLOTTING?
THE ONLY THING I CAN SENSE IS...
A POWERFUL...
MALICE.
WHAT DO THE MYSTERIOUS CARDS POINT TO?

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

THE OCTOBER ISSUE GOES ON SALE SATURDAY, AUGUST 26!!